

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
December 15, 2011
A/V Room 210 / 212 – J-Wing Capitol Building

Members Present: Terry Ault, Doug Anderson, Curt Halmrast, June Herman, Kari Enget, Gerald Uglem, Diane Witteman, Liz Beck, Marleen Miller (telephone), Mark Nelson (10:45)

Members Not Present: Tim Meyer, Dr Sather, Jerry Jurena, Lynn Hartman

DoH Representatives Present: Karol Riedman, Ed Gregoire, Tom Nehring, Lindsey Narloch, Mary Tello-Pool, Jan Franklund, Linda Zahn, Kari Kuhn

Others Present: Mona Thompson, Jim DeMell, Cody Friesz (10:50)

Welcome and Introductions

Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2011 Meeting

There were two changes recommended by Liz Beck to avoid an over generalization of dispatch issues:

1. Page 3 bullet 5 – change to “...**some** dispatch...”.
2. Following paragraph change to “...the **possibility that some** 911 coordinators...”

The recommendation was also made to **add page numbers** for convenient reference for council members.

Motion made to approve the minutes with changes requested by Liz Beck as well as the addition of page numbers.

Motion made by Senator Uglem.

Diane Witteman seconded the motion.

No further discussion; motion passed unanimously.

These changes were made and the minutes were posted to the EMSAC page on DEMST website.

Grant Eligibility Criteria / Guidelines for Scoring of Funding Applications

Tom distributed handouts and presented a brief overview outlining previous staffing grant criteria stating that DEMST will need to compose a similar document for the upcoming funding process. Tom expressed that he would like a less complicated and more transparent process for this funding source. Feelings were expressed that the process was difficult and this is why some needy ambulances did not apply. There's also a general feeling that there was a varied use of the staffing grant dollars, which was intended to assure 24/7 coverage. It was also voiced that that services did not apply due to the local match and the varying amounts which caused budgeting issues

Curt suggested that council members have previous EMSAC minutes available at meetings for reference.

Tom brought up the issue of total roster size versus active members on a roster and expressed his feeling that DEMST needs to define the term 'active' member.

Doug brought up his belief that there should be more teeth in MOUs such as required quarterly meetings with ambulance management, etc. This should not just be a piece of paper, but a relationship.

There was discussion regarding the fact that services need to exhaust all possibilities of collecting no-pays and that this is not the responsibility of legislation.

Discussion also surrounded the question of whether the services on the corridors also have higher population pools and whether or not the corridors need to be expanded or changed at this point.

Breakout work began until lunch.

Breakout reports:

Group 3 – Kari, Cody, Terry, June, Mark, Liz

This group defined a collaborative plan as a shared plan demonstrating collaborative efforts which may include staffing, training, services (billing), or other identified opportunity.

There was discussion over whether or not collaboration should be a requirement or a weighted component and whether collaboration can be verifiable.

The number of members attending leadership training was also discussed as possible weighted criteria. This group discussed the definition of active members and was leaning more towards hours per month or year and suggested looking into Safetech's definition.

Group 2 - Doug Anderson, Terry Ault, Senator Uglem, Jim DeMell, Karol Riedman

This group was aiming for a simple, transparent system. They also decided that using an age factor was too risky. This group's discussion regarding active members revolved around 48 hours per month including training. The question arose as to whether more funding would be related to more members or fewer members on the roster.

The group agreed that there should be a uniform budget template provided to maintain consistency and accountability. They also requested further explanation of active vs inactive personnel including consideration of different training levels included. Personnel at different levels of training / licensure change the dynamics of the roster. Various levels of 'active' are used around the state; 24 hrs / month, 20 runs / year, 40 hrs / year, 9 of 12 meetings, 12 hrs / week, etc. Most ambulance services do not have written definitions of active members vs inactive members. There was discussion regarding a state-wide definition of 'active', as well as the possibility of putting a weight on whether or not a service has an outlined definition.

There was a general feeling that since EMS requires a commitment there should be a requirement of in person meetings to substantiate collaboration.

Funding requirements need to look at eligibility, sustainability, and viability.

Ed was asked to provide statistics on lack of activity as related to lack of skills maintenance at the upcoming January meeting.

Group 1 – Mona Thompson, Curt Halmrast, Marlene Miller

This group added criteria that specified that these funds be spent only on EMS operations and to be sure all agencies are dispatched through a licensed PSAP. Data needs to be verifiable. They also felt that although age has merit, it is a risky topic.

There was discussion regarding misuse of funds resulting in termination of funding and what the definition of misuse is. Senator Uglem does not feel this needs to be included.

They recommended a trend in run volume be used.

Mark Nelson has been asked to supply information regarding the corridors.

There was a feeling that the staffing grant was a ‘bandaid’ and that these funds need to lean towards the long term sustainability of EMS. Information should be supplied up front regarding changes coming in future years for funding qualification.

DEMST will begin work on the grant guidance using EMSAC recommendations and will present information at next council meeting in January.

STEMI

Mindy looked to the regional reps for suggestions regarding contacting services and assisting with services. Jim and Mona volunteered to contact the services directly rather than going through AHA.

Mindy led discussion regarding interoperability between the three AED companies and the possible installation of more than one program as well as various transmission issues.

OIEMS

Cody provided a brief overview of a recent meeting between the land commissioner (administering the new funding), Tom Tupa, Tom Nehring, and Renee Loh of NDFA. There wasn’t a lot of information to share at this time. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2012. There is a target of \$7 – 10 million for EMS, law enforcement and fire.

Tom is bringing recommendations from this council meeting to a meeting with the Energy Infrastructure Committee at 8:30AM tomorrow (12/16/2011).

Scope of Practice

Ed reviewed the updated scope of practice for each EMS level including additions and changes from the new EMS education standards.

Please review the attached document and send any comments, suggestions or questions to the DEMST office.

Rule Updates / Changes

There was discussion about upcoming changes to DEMST administrative rules. These will be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

Dispatch Update

Liz gave a brief update on the results from the survey distributed. There were a total of 71 respondents. Please review attached results.

Tom expressed his appreciation to the work done by the dispatch sub-committee

Community Paramedic Update

The community paramedic subcommittee has not met yet, but Marlene plans to call the group together via teleconference in early January, or in a face-to-face meeting prior to the next EMSAC meeting.

Other Business

Mary Tello-Pool gave a brief EMSC update on purchases and distribution of equipment to ambulance services. There have been some issues with the process as well as the suppliers, but these issues are being resolved.

Amy Eberle reported that interviews for the state medical director will hopefully be held in early January.

Next Meeting

Do to conflicts with the upcoming scheduled meeting date, the January EMSAC meeting is now scheduled for January 18. AV rooms 210 – 212 have been secured and hotel rooms are available at the AmericInn.

Meeting Adjourned